

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 SAJ-01 IO-11 ARA-10 SAM-01 EB-07 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /110 W

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R 211819Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5852

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01113

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG PRESS COVERAGE OF HELSINGOR MEETING

1. FRG PRESS COVERAGE OF THE MEETING OF WESTERN
EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS AT HELSINGOR ACCORDED PRINCIPAL
ATTENTION TO THE PRESENTATIONS BY SPD PARTY CHAIRMAN
BRANDT AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND THE SCHMIDT-MITTERRAND
CONFRONTATION OVER COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

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2. THE HELSINGOR MEETING RECEIVED A FAIR AMOUNT OF COVERAGE IN THE GERMAN PRESS. TYPICAL HEADLINES WERE: "SCHMIDT: NOT TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNISTS", "BONN'S CHANCELLOR DEFENDS THE MARKET ECONOMY", "SPD REJECTS COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS", "BRANDT AGAINST COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS", "MITTERRAND: SOME COOPERATION NECESSARY - BRANDT: NOT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC", AND "NO CLARITY ABOUT POPULAR FRONTS."

3. IN A SIGNED ARTICLE - IN THE SPD WEEKLY "VORWAERTS", RHEINHOLD DEY DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS "A TOTAL SUCCESS" BECAUSE OF THE OPEN DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE, AND THE PARTICIPANTS' DECISION TO REJECT RINGING DECLARATIONS OF UNITY WHEN THIS WAS NOT AT HAND. THIS WAS THE CASE IN PARTICULAR WHEN THE DELEGATES CONSIDERED THE TOPIC OF COOPERATION BETWEEN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.

4. DEY ALSO WROTE:

-- ON THE ONE HAND, THE TINDEMANS REPORT WAS ACCEPTED BY BOTH BRANDT AND SCHMIDT AS PRESENTING A REASONABLE, BASIC, PRAGMATIC PROGRAM WHICH IS REALIZABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHER DELEGATES SUCH AS SICCO MANSHOLT CRITICIZED THE REPORT FOR ITS OMISSIONS AND DECLARED THAT THE REPORT SEEMED TO LEAN MORE TOWARD A EUROPE OF BUREAUCRATS RATHER THAN A EUROPE OF CITIZENS.

-- IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESS THAT THE GROUP ESTABLISHED IN STOCKHOLM LAST AUGUST HAS HAD IN HELPING DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL, A SIMILAR APPROACH TOWARD SPAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE SEEMS LIKELY.

-- IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOCIALISTS DESIRE TO INCREASE THE ATTENTION ACCORDED LATIN AMERICA, ASIA AND AFRICA, AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS MEETING MAY TAKE PLACE IN JUNE, EITHER IN MEXICO OR VENEZUELA, TO DEVELOP BRANDT'S PROPOSED "ALLIANCE FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS."

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-- WHILE BOTH SCHMIDT AND BRANDT WERE FIRM IN
THEIR BELIEF THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SPD AND WEST
GERMAN COMMUNISTS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION, NEITHER OF
THE TWO SOUGHT TO WIN OVER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER
NATIONAL COUNTRIES TO THEIR POINT OF VIEW.

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5. AN ARTICLE BY WOLFGANG CLEMENT IN THE "WESTFAELISCHE RUNDSCHAU" NOTED THAT COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS SHOULD POSE NO GREAT PROBLEM TO EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS, SINCE THE PROGRAMS OF THE PCI AND PCF ARE IN NO WAY COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF THE GDR-CONTROLLED WEST GERMAN COMMUNISTS (DKP). CLEMENT ARGUED THAT THIS IS AFTER ALL THE ONLY WAY THE SOCIALISTS IN FRANCE WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO POWER.

6. THE ARTICLES IN BOTH THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG" AND "DIE WELT" DESCRIBED THE CHANCELLOR'S REACTION TO MITTERRAND'S DEFENSE OF COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS AS VERY UNSYMPATHETIC. THE FAZ REPORTED THAT SCHMIDT REACTED LIKE A "SATURN-ROCKET" TO MITTERRAND'S DEFENSE OF A POPULAR FRONT. SCHMIDT ALSO REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT NATO IS NO IDEOLOGICAL INSTRUMENT BUT RATHER A DEFENSE MECHANISM AGAINST SOVIET OPPRESSION. "DIE WELT" PLAYED UP THE "SHARP SEPARATION" BETWEEN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS THAT WERE REVEALED AT THE MEETING.
HILLENBRAND

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